

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Peru

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SUBJECT PCP Propaganda Campaigns

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INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. At a meeting of Peruvian Communist Party leaders on 12 September 1950, at which Manuel Ugarte Saldana, Carlos Arbulu Miranda, Jose Reccio, Julian Huanay and others were present, Secretary General Ugarte announced that the Party was to intensify two propaganda programs. One campaign will be directed against any negotiations to give Bolivia an outlet to the sea, and the other against the increasing cost of living.

2. Ugarte stated that the Communists in southern Peru were taking charge of the campaign against the granting of a west coast port to Bolivia. Communists in the south believe that this campaign will be a popular one since there is considerable opposition to the project in the southern provinces of Arequipa and Puno. With the economic situation already difficult in those provinces, the Communists will point out that any deal with the Bolivian and Chilean governments for a Bolivian outlet will virtually paralyze the Peruvian ports of Mollendo and Matarani, and further aggravate bad economic conditions in southern Peru.

3. The Communists will blame "United States Imperialism" for sponsoring the Bolivian port project.

4. The Communists will also blame the United States for the present high cost of living and the scarcity of certain essential articles in Peru. The Communists will argue that Peru is shipping its sugar and rice to the United States and that as a result, domestic scarcities of these have brought about higher prices. This campaign is also designed to embarrass the Odría government. The Communists are already attacking the government's solution of a recently threatened bakers' strike, when employers claimed that they could not pay higher wages without increasing the price of bread. The Communists claim that the government settled the issue by permitting the owners of bakeries to make smaller loaves and sell them for the same price previously paid for larger loaves.

5. Julian Huanay, who is prominent in Communist labor circles, proposed that the "friends" of the Party in the newly elected congress be requested to wage a vigorous campaign against any further rise in the cost of living.

25X1A Comment. Both the Bolivian question and the increasing cost of

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living are touchy problems for the Odría government. Three strikes for higher wages have been threatened recently but the government has managed to stall them. Continued agitation, however, will make the government's position increasingly difficult. As regards the Bolivian issue, the government forced the weekly Trinchera Aliada to suspend publication because of an article it carried on the Bolivian port issue. The article itself was merely a reprint of an article which had appeared in Santiago's Ercilla.